



MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY, JANUARY 2007

WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

PROGRAM LISTING:

**Arbovirus
Surveillance &
Control**

**Chronic Disease
Prevention**

**Communicable
Disease Control**

**Community
Epidemiology**

Dental Health

**Environmental
Planning and
Pollution Control**

Food Protection

HIV Prevention

Immunizations

**Institutional
Inspections**

**Lead Poisoning
Prevention**

**Public Health
Investigations**

**Public Health
Preparedness**

Refugee Health

School Health

**Sexually
Transmitted
Disease Control**

**Tuberculosis
Control**

Water Quality

**Youth Health
Promotion**

Summary of Program: In October 2001, Manchester, NH was designated as an official Weed & Seed Strategy site by the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO). This recognition supports a five year development period of preventing, controlling and reducing violent crime in a specific target community followed with concentrated efforts to seed in hope and neighborhood revitalization. Currently, there are 331 Weed & Seed sites across the country. The City of Manchester has the only Weed & Seed strategy in New Hampshire.

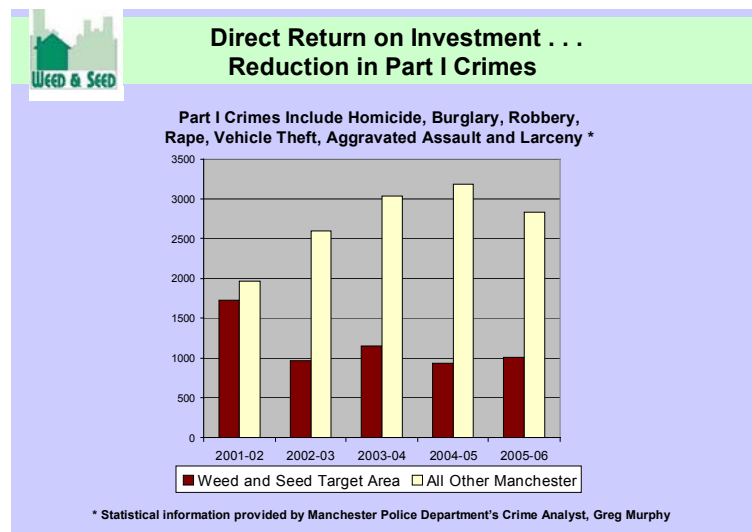
The key to the success of the Manchester's Weed & Seed strategy has been in its partnerships. To date, there are over 40 agencies represented at the Steering oversight level of the strategy, with law enforcement, City Departments and now, over 31 Neighborhood Watch Groups representing the resident input and needs in the community. This unique collaboration stems from residents having equally weighted input into the strategy and being able to leverage resources towards improved neighborhood quality of life. In addition, service providers are able to communicate across channels and provide services that are not duplicative, competitive in nature or overlapping.

Summary of Activities:

- Domestic violence response allowed for the arrest of 456 offenders in the Weed & Seed community
- Prostitution details have resulted in the arrests of 78 "Johns" and 33 prostitutes since July 2004
- Special Investigations Unit and NH Drug Task Force arrested 41 individuals for drug sales
- 15 Neighborhood Watch Groups were activated in the Weed & Seed area
- Cultural diversity trainings were provided to over 100 police personnel and 14 community agencies
- Personal safety clinics were provided to 20% of residents living in senior housing
- Graffiti Task Force worked with community agencies to identify "taggers" and remove graffiti
- Saturday Teen Night provided a safe environment for over 1,200 unduplicated youth
- Neighborhood Block Party brings together over 500 residents and community providers annually
- Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign has sponsored 6 community forums
- Lighting, toters and HUD safety trainings were provided to landlords of low-income housing
- Community gardens were created in two locations through UNH Cooperative Extension
- Immigrant and refugee public safety trainings were provided to 137 refugees and new immigrants
- The Valley Cemetery and Arboretum has been cleaned up annually

Program Notes and Trends: From the start of the Manchester Weed & Seed strategy, there has been a steady decline in the target area's more violent crimes. In addition, juvenile crime decreased 39% from 2,323 cases in 2002 to 1,423 cases in 2006. In general, residents report an improved quality of life and have valued the benefit of an empowered mechanism which pulls to community together to address unmet needs. The strategy is now in its fifth year of local implementation and seeks to sustain these efforts within the City infrastructure.

The indirect return on the Weed & Seed strategy investment has been the in-kind support of community partners worth approximately \$450,000 of staff time and resources. In addition, service providers have attributed over \$2.6 million in additional financial income for local services as a result of Manchester's Weed & Seed designation..



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Manchester School District, in collaboration with The Manchester Health Department, applied for and was selected to participate in a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation City-School Youth Obesity, School Wellness Planning Leadership Academy training. A city/school team representing Manchester will be attending a two-day conference in Nashville, Tennessee at the end of January. This conference aims to provide participants from 10-12 cities within the United States with the opportunity to learn how to implement the federally mandated school wellness policies including exploring ways to promote active living and healthy eating among our children and youth.

PASSPORT TO CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH CHALLENGE

The Passport to Cardiovascular Health program is a three-month, team-based challenge to help participants reduce their risk factors for heart disease. A pilot of this Challenge was offered in September 2006 to City Employees. The Challenge included two heart health screenings, which provided each participant with a cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure screening, waist-to-hip ratio, Body Mass Index score, and a Heart Health Risk Appraisal Questionnaire. In addition to the health screenings, all participants received a pedometer and were encouraged to increase their daily physical activity level. Participants competed for points that were accrued by making healthy behavior changes, such as scheduling an annual physical with their physician or quitting smoking. The Challenge also provided free educational sessions and fitness programs that assisted participants in making heart healthy changes to achieve their personal wellness goals and improve their long-term health.

The Challenge was very well received by City Employees with a total of 106 City Employees from 16 Departments participating in this three-month program. This included over a half-dozen Department Heads for a total of 23 teams. Overall, participants in this program made remarkable changes in their health screening results, including significant decreases in their blood sugar levels and waist measurements.

A special acknowledgment to the Challenge Planning Committee comprised of various community partners who provided the support that made this Challenge a success. They include the American Heart Association, Catholic Medical Center, Dartmouth Hitchcock–Manchester, Elliot Health System, and the Foundation for Healthy Communities. The Challenge also received a tremendous amount of sponsorship from local businesses with over \$3,000 dollars in raffle donations generously provided by 22 businesses as an incentive for individuals who made healthy behavior changes. It is the goal of the Challenge Planning Committee to extend the model of this program to the business community and the Manchester community-at-large.

DISEASE NOTES

Planning is underway in collaboration with the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to pilot a study utilizing the QuantiFERON-Gold Test, to detect latent TB infection. The QuantiFERON-Gold Test was approved in 2005 and uses whole blood to detect LTBI, rather than skin testing. The QuantiFERON-Gold (QTFG) Test is recommended by CDC in place of (not in addition to) tuberculin skin testing, except if the QTFG result is indeterminate. Currently, the study will involve QTFG testing for health care worker and refugees. The NH DHHS has requested the MHD's participation in enrolling 200 refugees. Clients will have a tuberculin skin test placed as well as drawing of blood samples for the QTFG test. The advantages include:

- One single patient visit rather than a second visit to interpret the skin test
- No booster phenomenon, thus two-step testing is not necessary
- Less reader bias than skin testing
- Improved specificity (>96%) and adequate sensitivity (>80%)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/HLT/Home.html>, or call 624-646